

I understand that the Lord needed him, not only did He take my big brother, He took my best friend. Nic, I'll see you on the court!

Please join me in a moment of silence for Nic Riehl, and for his family's courage in his loss.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 2007 NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

### HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, National Teacher Appreciation Day provides us with a special opportunity to reflect on the importance of the teacher in our society and to note with deep appreciation the incalculable contribution that teachers have made to the educational and personal development of our citizenry.

It has been said that half of us is what we make of ourselves and the other half is made by others. There can be little doubt that "the rest of us" is profoundly and powerfully influenced by our teachers. Teachers affect our lives in significant ways—they guide our acquisition of knowledge, they facilitate our personal growth and they stimulate the development of our personalities and our imaginations. In short, they inspire us to be our greater selves.

Our greatest and most successful citizens and achievers have been molded and encouraged by their teachers. Conversely, where there is a failure to educate and inspire—where our young people don't have the guidance of good teachers—the consequences are clear, both in the short and long term.

In the United States today, our teachers hold the fortunes and futures of millions of children and young persons and, by extension, the fortune and future of our Nation as a whole. I am especially aware of this fact as a member of the Education and Labor Committee which is charged with examining the issues for reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. As the 110th Congress moves toward reauthorizing this legislation, we have sought to involve the teachers at every stage in the development of the plan. Second to our children, our Nation's teachers are the most important stakeholders in the future of NCLB.

As we observe National Teacher Appreciation Week, 2007, I would like to congratulate all teachers for continuing to give their best in the noble task of educating the children of our Nation.

#### IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL AND WITHDRAWAL BILLS

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today's votes on the Iraq supplemental with benchmarks and the Iraqi withdrawal bill are important steps as congressional Democrats do everything we can to reverse the President's disastrous Iraq policy.

I support the vote to withdraw troops because it is consistent with the comprehensive legislation I introduced, "The New Direction in Iraq Act" and the supplemental because it is a way to keep the pressure on the President. Support for the continued occupation of Iraq is fraying, as Republicans have started to say in private what the American people started realizing long ago.

I have opposed the war from the start, and these votes hasten the day when we bring the tragedy of the Iraq war to a close. I will continue to do everything in my power to end this tragic chapter in our history.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PETE TORRES, JR., 1933–2007

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true pioneer and champion of the common man. Pete Torres, Jr., was a great man who played a vital role in ensuring that everyone had a voice in their government. Mr. Torres passed away on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the age of 73. He was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many in San Antonio, and he will be missed.

It was the late 1960s when Mr. Torres made history in south Texas and San Antonio. Mr. Carlos Guerra of the San Antonio Express-News best described the climate and challenges that Mr. Torres faced.

"In the 1960s, virtually every South Texas city and town was firmly in the grip of some chamber-backed clique that was neither attuned to the concerns of regular people nor particularly interested in letting minority people speak for themselves."

"San Antonio was hardly the exception," said Guerra.

It was this climate in which Mr. Torres broke down barriers for the common man and took the San Antonio City Council by storm in 1967. At a time when the city council was run by a select group of privileged citizens who in no way accurately reflected the diversity and dynamic of the city of San Antonio, Mr. Torres was an agent of change. His election to the San Antonio City Council taught all of south Texas a lesson in governing by advocating for causes that benefited the majority of San Antonio's people, not a select few.

While he served as a member of the San Antonio's City Council for 4 short years, his impact transcended generations and is still felt today. After his public service career, he continued to represent the disenfranchised and vulnerable as an attorney who was respected and beloved by all. He will forever be remembered as a pioneer and champion of causes for the common man and minorities. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on and the extraordinary contributions he made to south Texas and San Antonio will never be forgotten.

#### IN LASTING MEMORY OF GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who passed away May 5, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 89.

Mr. Dunklin had two passions in life—farming and tennis. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Arkansas where he helped run the family business, Planters Cotton Oil Mill, until he retired in 2005 as president after 66 years. He was the 1975 president of the National Cottonseed Association, Member of the Cotton Advisory Committee to the U.S. Agriculture Department Secretary and he received the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, among other honors.

When Mr. Dunklin was not working on behalf of farmers across the country, he could be found on the tennis court. His love for the sport of tennis took him around the world. Not only was he the Arkansas State Men's Tennis Champion a record nine times, but he also played in two Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Mr. Dunklin was elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Tennis Hall of Fame and was a past president of the Arkansas Tennis Association.

Mr. Dunklin was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff, where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was a member and past president of the Pine Bluff Rotary Club and past president of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce. He was the director of Simmons First National Corporation in Pine Bluff and he served as chairman of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

My deepest condolences go to Mr. Dunklin's wife, Mary Elisabeth "Lib" Black Dunklin of Pine Bluff; his daughter Deborah Tipton of Memphis, TN; his son George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt; his two brothers William Dunklin of Pine Bluff and Louis Dunklin of Dallas, TX; and to his 5 grandchildren. Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

#### BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

### HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. What finer tribute to our wives and mothers could we pay during this week before Mother's Day than to join as cosponsors of this important bill.

This legislation would invest in the research we need to discover the potential links between breast cancer and environmental factors. It is research that could someday lead to a cure.